

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Claims 1-11 (cancelled).

12. (currently amended) A microscope comprising:

a base body or a stand comprising: ~~of a bottom area, a middle part, and a top end;~~

a first part holding an observation unit;

a second part holding an illumination unit; and

a third part holding a supporting cell, said third part connecting the first and the second part;

a stage support;

a guide for adjusting the stage support or an objective changer device with inserted objectives; and

a stage for holding the object or specimen;

said microscope further comprising:

a supporting cell being provided and being connected to the ~~middle~~ third part of the stand, preferably rigidly but so as to be exchangeable; and

a first assembly being provided for receiving, holding and adjusting the objective and a second assembly being provided for positioning the object or specimen relative to the objective, said first and second assembly ~~are~~ being attached to said supporting cell,

wherein the supporting cell is a single structure.

13. (previously presented) The microscope according to claim 12, wherein the supporting cell is rigidly fastened to a plurality of projections of the stand.

14. (previously presented) The microscope according to claim 13, wherein damping and/or vibration-isolating intermediate layers are arranged between the supporting cell and the contact surfaces of the projections of the stand.

15. (previously presented) The microscope according to claim 12, wherein the

supporting cell is arranged at the stand in a springing manner.

16. (previously presented) The microscope according to claim 12, wherein the first assembly is designed as an objective changer device or as an objective focusing device.

17. (previously presented) The microscope according to claim 12, wherein the second assembly comprises a stage support, a stage guide, and the stage.

18. (previously presented) The microscope according to claim 12, wherein the supporting cell is optimized with respect to rigidity, use of material, dimensioning and thermal behavior while adhering to requirements for high stability and imaging quality of the microscope.

19. (previously presented) The microscope according to claim 12, wherein an objective changer device constructed as an objective turret is arranged at the supporting cell.

20. (previously presented) The microscope according to claim 12, wherein means for arranging a condenser are provided at the stage support.

21. (previously presented) The microscope according to claim 12, wherein the stage guide has a guide plate that is fixedly arranged at the supporting cell and guide elements at the stage support which are in an operative connection with the guide plate.

22. (previously presented) The microscope according to claim 12, wherein the supporting cell comprises a thermally invariant ceramic material, sintered material or other suitable material or a combination of such materials.